

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device in which a main beam spot and sub-beam spots are formed on an information recording surface of an optical disc with irradiation of a laser beam, and laser power of said laser beam is intermittently boosted to record ~~desired~~ predetermined data on said optical disc by said main beam spot, said optical disc device comprising:

light receiving means for receiving a return light corresponding to ~~one~~ a preceding sub-beam of said sub-beam spots, ~~which that~~ is formed on a preceding side with respect to a scan direction of said main beam spot, and outputting a light detection result;

correcting means for suppressing changes in signal level of the light detection result caused upon boosting of the laser power of said laser beam, said correcting means including a detector that detects a light output level of a source for said laser beam; and

determining means for determining the light detection result obtained through said correcting means, and detecting ~~the~~ a presence of ~~defects~~ a defect on said optical disc using only the preceding sub-beam of said sub-beam spots.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 1, wherein said correcting means further suppresses changes in signal level of the light detection result caused ~~with~~ by meandering of a groove formed in said optical disc.

Claim 3 (Original): An optical disc device according to claim 1, wherein said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said main beam spot; and

said sub-beam spot formed on the preceding side is one of said pair of beam spots, which precedes in both circumferential and radial directions of said optical disc.

Claim 4 (Original): An optical disc device according to claim 1, wherein said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said main beam spot;

said optical disc device includes light receiving devices for receiving said pair of beam spots, respectively, and processes light detection results of said light receiving devices to generate a tracking error signal, each of said light receiving devices having a light receiving surface divided by a division line extending in the circumferential direction of said optical disc; and

said light receiving means is one of divided areas of said light receiving surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a power controller that changes

an amount of light for writing ~~is changed~~ in a defective area of said optical disc based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 1, wherein a writing process is temporarily suspended in a defective area of said optical disc based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 1, wherein

an alternative process is executed on data, which is assigned to writing to be made in a defective area of said optical disc, based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device comprising:

a light source for emitting a laser beam;

a diffraction grating for generating a main optical beam and at least first and second optical beams from the laser beam emitted from said light source, and forming a main beam spot and sub-beam spots on an information recording surface of an optical disc, said sub-beam spots include a first sub-beam spot that is formed on a preceding side with respect to a scan direction of said main beam;

a photo detector for receiving a return light corresponding to said first sub-beam spot ~~one of said sub-beam spots, which is formed on preceding side with respect to scan of said main beam spot~~, and outputting a light detection result; and

a determination circuit for determining the light detection result of said photo detector, and detecting ~~the~~ a presence of defects ~~a defect~~ on said optical disc using only the first sub-beam spot of said sub-beam spots.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein

said optical disc device further comprises a correction circuit for suppressing changes in signal level of the light detection result caused upon boosting of laser power of said laser beam; and

said determination circuit determines the light detection result obtained through said correction circuit, and detects ~~the~~ a presence of defects ~~the defect~~ on said optical disc.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 9, wherein said correction circuit further suppresses changes in signal level of the light detection result caused ~~with~~ by meandering of a groove formed in said optical disc.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said main beam spot; and

~~said sub-beam spot formed on the preceding side~~ first sub-beam spot is one of said pair of beam spots, which precedes in both circumferential and radial directions of said optical disc.

Claim 12 (Original): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said main beam spot; and

said optical disc device includes light receiving devices for receiving said pair of beam spots, respectively, and processes light detection results of said light receiving devices to generate a tracking error signal, each of said light receiving devices having a light receiving surface divided by a division line extending in the circumferential direction of said optical disc.

Claim 13 (Original): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein an amount of light for writing is changed in a defective area based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein a writing process is temporarily suspended in a defective area of said optical disc based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An optical disc device according to claim 8, wherein an alternative process is executed on data, which is assigned to writing to be made in a defect containing area of said optical disc, based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A control method for an optical disc device in which a main beam spot and sub-beam spots are formed on an information recording surface of an optical disc with irradiation of a laser beam, and laser power of said laser beam is intermittently boosted to record ~~desired~~ predetermined data on said optical disc by said main beam spot, said method comprising the steps of:

suppressing changes in signal level of a light detection result caused upon boosting of the laser power of said laser beam, the light detection result being obtained by receiving a return light corresponding to a preceding sub-beam spot that is one of said sub-beam spots and, which is formed on a preceding side with respect to a scan direction of said main beam spot;

detecting a boost of the laser power of said laser beam; and
determining the light detection result and detecting ~~the~~ a presence of defects ~~a defect~~ on said optical disc using only the preceding sub-beam spot of said sub-beam spots.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device in which a main beam spot and sub-beam spots are formed on an information recording surface of an optical disc with irradiation

of a laser beam, and laser power of said laser beam is intermittently boosted to record desired data on said optical disc by said main beam spot, said optical disc device comprising:

light receiving means for receiving a return light corresponding to one of said sub-beam spots, which is formed on succeeding side with respect to scan of said main beam spot, and outputting a light detection result;

correcting means for suppressing changes in signal level of the light detection result caused upon boosting of the laser power of said laser beam; and

determining means for processing the light detection result obtained through said correcting means, and determining an error in the data recorded on said optical disc by said main beam spot and an error in address data obtained from said optical disc.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 17, wherein said correcting means further suppresses changes in signal level of the light detection result caused with meandering of a groove formed in said optical disc.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 17, wherein said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said main beam spot;

said optical disc device includes light receiving devices for receiving said pair of beam spots, respectively, and processes light detection results of said light receiving devices to generate a tracking error signal, each of said light receiving devices having a light receiving surface divided by a division line extending in the circumferential direction of said optical disc; and

said light receiving means is one of divided areas of said light receiving surface.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 17, wherein an alternative process is executed based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 17, wherein recording by said main beam spot is suspended based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 17, wherein a retry process is executed based on a determination result of said determining means.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device comprising:
a light source for emitting a laser beam;
a diffraction grating for generating a main optical beam and at least first and second optical beams from the laser beam emitted from said light source, and forming a main beam spot and sub-beam spots on an information recording surface of an optical disc;
a photo detector for receiving a return light corresponding to one of said sub-beam spots, which is formed on succeeding side with respect to scan of said main beam spot, and outputting a light detection result; and a determination circuit for processing the light detection result obtained from said light receiving means, and
determining an error in the data recorded on said optical disc by said main beam spot and an error in address data obtained from said optical disc.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 23, wherein
said optical disc device further comprises a correction circuit for suppressing changes
in signal level of the light detection result caused upon boosting of laser power of said laser
beam; and

said determination circuit processes the light detection result obtained through said
correction circuit, and determines an error in the data recorded on said optical disc by said
main beam spot and an error in address data obtained from said optical disc.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 24, wherein said
correction circuit further suppresses changes in signal level of the light detection result
caused with meandering of a groove formed in said optical disc.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 23, wherein
said sub-beam spots are formed as a pair of beam spots produced on both sides of said
main beam spot; and

said optical disc device includes light receiving devices for receiving said pair of
beam spots, respectively, and processes light detection results of said light receiving devices
to generate a tracking error signal, each of said light receiving devices having a light
receiving surface divided by a division line extending in the circumferential direction of said
optical disc.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 23, wherein an
alternative process is executed based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 23, wherein recording by said main beam spot is suspended based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): An optical disc device according to claim 23, wherein a retry process is executed based on a determination result of said determination circuit.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A control method for an optical disc device in which a main beam spot and sub-beam spots are formed on an information recording surface of an optical disc with irradiation of a laser beam, and laser power of said laser beam is intermittently boosted to record desired data on said optical disc by said main beam spot, said method comprising the steps of:

suppressing changes in signal level of a light detection result caused upon boosting of the laser power of said laser beam, the light detection result being obtained by receiving a return light corresponding to one of said sub-beam spots, which is formed on succeeding side with respect to scan of said main beam spot; and

processing the light detection result, and determining an error in the data recorded on said optical disc by said main beam spot and an error in address data obtained from said optical disc.